



NPH Haiti

The healthcare programs of NPH Haiti are motivated by the gospel command to care for the sick and strive to offset the injustices of poverty which make healthcare inaccessible for many people. Poverty imposes a tremendous burden of sickness and suffering on children. As part of NPH, St. Damien Pediatric Hospital offers any child in need quality and dignified healthcare. St. Damien always seeks to include parent participation through ongoing dialogue, on-site education and the encouragement of material support.



St. Damien Pediatric Hospital | Malnutrition Program

The malnutrition program at St. Damien treats children up to five years old in order to combat Haiti's alarmingly high rate of malnutrition (17,500 children under the age of five were reported to be acutely malnourished before the January 12, 2010 earthquake). Malnutrition is the end result of an inadequate dietary intake and illness and is prevalent among many impoverished Haitians. The goal of the malnutrition program is to prevent death, shorten hospital inpatient time and provide rehabilitation as the patient recovers.

The malnutrition program is divided in three phases: **Phase 1** (In-patient): For children less than 70% of the median-weight-for height as designated by the World Health Organization, intensive feeding is begun immediately using trimethoprim/sulfamethoxazole, mebendazole, folic acid and zinc cream. Therapeutic milk, (F-75) is given as well. Most parents bring their children in at Phase 1 due to the lack of health centers and resources – many patients travel an entire day's worth of time just to reach the hospital.

Phase 2 (In-patient): When a child begins to gain weight, he or she is switched to multi-vitamin therapeutic milk (F-100), until he or she is determined to be at least 80% of the median weight for height.



Kay au Bois Staff:

- 1 Doctor
- 3 Nurses
- 1 Coordinator
- 6 Nursing aids
- 2 Cooks
- 2 Play therapy aids
- 1 Laundry
- 2 Cleaning

Phase 3 (Out-patient): Children who present at 70-80% of median weight for height (or have completed in-patient treatment) come with their guardian to the Kay au Bois out-patient center at the hospital. Kay au Bois is operated and managed by St. Luc, the affiliation foundation of NPH Haiti. The program runs for six weeks and provides patients with food packages consisting of a combination of F100 (a dried high-energy milk that is fortified with a mix of vitamins and minerals that are designed to counter the specific biochemical effects of malnutrition in children) and Plumpy'Nut (a combination of peanut paste, vegetable oil, powdered milk, powdered sugar, vitamins, and minerals). Children are followed through weekly consultations to monitor progress. HIV tests are offered to those children who are high risk, about a quarter of program participants.

Since each child is admitted with a different medical history, a varied weight to height ratio, and all gain weight at different rates, recovery rate and cost per child is indeterminable. The lengths of Phase 1 and 2 vary depending on how ill the child is, how quickly the child gains weight, and if there are any other comorbidities. Some children can be released after five days, while others can be in the hospital for months. UNICEF donates F-75 and F-100 to our program and children under one year of age receive Isomil (soy milk) every four hours. Soy milk is chosen so children don't have to be tested for allergies before starting feeding. Children over one receive regular milk twice daily.

Thanks to one of our donors, Danone Italia, we are able to support the treatment of 1,000 children.



2010 Stats: Phase 1 and 2 patients: 508
Phase 3 patients: 650



A neighbor, Marie, brought Judeland to the Kay au Bois out-patient malnutrition program in early September 2010. Marie relayed a sad story of abuse and neglect to the staff and expressed the absolute necessity of not returning the child to her current home.

The nurse immediately contacted the Fr. Wasson Angels of Light program (FWAL), NPH Haiti's emergency response program which began days after the earthquake to protect the thousands of newly, vulnerable and displaced children. The social services staff started an investigation and were horrified by the abuse and neglect that they found. The father of Judeland agreed that the best option would be to have his two daughters enter the NPH home. Judeland and her six-year-old sister, Jullien, began a new life at St. Anne, FWAL's home for children younger than six years of age. Judeland started immediately on the Phase 3 out-patient care for malnutrition. In just a few short weeks, she gained weight and began to regain her strength. Soon she was able to run and play like the other three year olds. The sisters have blossomed wonderfully and we are thrilled that they were able to begin a new life with us after coming from such a traumatic place.

Photos: top, nurse weighs a patient in the malnutrition center, middle, in-patient children after drinking milk, bottom: Judeland before and after.

